

OW Responses - Water Utility Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 2015

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Room 3233 EPA East, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W.

AGENDA

1. **Introduction and Remarks** from EPA's Office of Water Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator Joel Beauvais
2. **Anticipated Proposed Rules** (between now and the end of year) –

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

- Selenium Ambient Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Life; SAN 5213
AA sign Jan 26

Requested by Claudio Ternieden, Government Affairs, Water Environment Federation - WEF

Comments/Questions:

Aside from the Phase II Stormwater Remand Rule – what other proposals if any – EPA intends to publish this year?

OW Response:

See attachment (Actions likely to be released near the end of 2015)

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4. Update on Criteria Development (Betsy Southerland)

Requested by Claudio Ternieden, Government Affairs, Water Environment Federation – WEF

Comments/Questions:

What is the status of any criteria EPA is working on including but not limited to, Bacteriophage?

OW Response:

Selenium

- EPA published an “External Peer Review” version of the draft criterion document in May 2014, accepted comments from the public, and submitted the draft to a contractor-led external expert peer review panel to ensure that the Agency was using the best available science.
- EPA incorporated changes reflecting comments from the peer review panel, as well as the public, and released the draft criterion to solicit another round of scientific views from the public on July 27, 2015.
- The extended comment period closed on October 30, 2015.
- EPA is currently reviewing the public comments.

Conductivity

- EPA is developing a draft recommended field-based method for states to develop ambient aquatic life water quality criteria for conductivity.

- The field-based method will allow states to develop science-based conductivity criteria that appropriately reflect ecoregional- or state-specific factors such as background conductivity and ionic and aquatic community composition.
- The draft method underwent two contractor-led, independent external peer reviews in November 2014 and July 2015.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Cadmium

- EPA released draft updated cadmium aquatic life criteria for public comment on December 1, 2015. Comments must be received on or before February 1, 2016.
- EPA updated the 2001 cadmium criteria to reflect the latest scientific information. The update reflects substantial new toxicity data on sensitive species, but maintains hardness-based equation approach.

Aluminum

- EPA is updating the 1988 aluminum criteria to reflect the latest scientific information, including data on the effects of pH on aluminum toxicity.
- The updated aluminum criteria will be equation-based to reflect effect of water chemistry (pH and hardness) on toxicity
- The draft criteria will soon undergo external peer review.
- EPA is aiming to release the draft criteria for 60-day public comment period in early 2016.

Copper Biotic Ligand Model (BLM)

Freshwater

- EPA has developed a technical support document for the 2007 freshwater copper biotic ligand model (BLM) to estimate model inputs to derive copper criteria when data are lacking.
- The document recently underwent external peer review.
- EPA is aiming to publish the draft for 30-day public comment in early 2016.

Saltwater

- EPA is also developing a draft aquatic life criteria document for saltwater copper.

- The draft criteria will soon undergo external peer review.
- EPA expects to issue a draft in early 2016 for 60-day public comment.

Coliphage

- EPA is planning to have an Experts Workshop on coliphage in February 2016 followed by a fact sheet summarizing the meeting proceedings.
- EPA will continue to do outreach and hold listening sessions in multiple venues, including the Beach Conference.

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